

# Capital Events

## Special Interest Articles:

- Holiday Charity Event
- Committee / Member Reports

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

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## How to Become More Involved

### Florida Capital Chapter Board/Committees

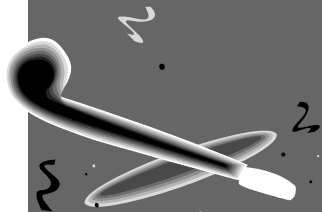
January is the time of year for changes and new resolutions. Our meeting this month joined Board members and Chairpersons together to present all aspects of board and committee duties and responsibilities. Becoming more involved in the chapter was a highlight of the evening. Board and committee members discussed several possibilities to become more involved as a member. 2007 is election year for the chapter, so we are looking for members to get involved with the board in one of the eight positions. Nomination forms are being accepted for all positions at this time. Nominations close February 20, 2007. There are also several committees that need your help. Check out the website for additional information.

Claire Smith presented the positions of President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Suzy Keenan presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Secretary, Ellen Sliger presented the three Director positions, and Karen Lambert presented Treasurer. Committees were discussed by board liaisons to a specific committee. Suzanne Kelly did a presentation on PACT, Membership and Nominations and Elections were discussed by Retha Nero, Honors and Awards, Leola Cleveland, and Programs, Carolyn Hinson.

Our sponsor, Janet Jones with the Kissimmee CVB, had a wonderful array of foods; a Fruit & Cheese display, grilled chicken skewers, assorted bouchees (a hit!), stuffed mushroom caps, bacon wrapped shrimp, and chocolate covered strawberries. With Janet were Sean Bohannon, Radisson WorldGate Resort; Lisa Eri, Radisson Resort Orlando-Celebration; John Allen, Ramada Plaza Hotel & Inn Gateway; Maria Teresa Carney, Clarion Resort Waterpark & Conference Center, all of whom are SGMP members. All 40 in attendance received a Kissimmee Churchill pen. Door prize drawings included hotel stays from the Radisson WorldGate Resort, Radisson Resort Orlando-Celebration, and Clarion Resort Waterpark & Conference Center. The Ramada Plaza Hotel & Inn Gateway gave a lucky winner a golf umbrella, and a gift bag.

**"A New Year Begins"**

*to you from the mystery writer*



## President's Message – Arlene Roberts, Florida Capital Chapter President

The start of a new year calls for celebration. I hope this year shines a new light for everyone in their personal and professional life. The chapter is once again entered into the "Newsletter of The Year" competition. Jennifer Coto and I just had our CPR and SLR meetings in Houston, TX. To cover a few topics, everyone is gearing up for the new formation of Regions beginning with the new term. Representatives were chosen from all but one of the CPR regions. The Atlanta chapter president, Ross Avina is elected to represent Region 2, which the Florida Capital Chapter is part of; the National Retention system is changing from their control to a chapter level reporting each month to Charles Sadler in the executive offices. All chapters will begin to use a standard retention log brought forward from the Sacramento chapter. All the sample correspondence brought is something that we have been doing for some time now and it is working very well. We will now add the Retention Log; CPR presentation at the national conference; student and retiree status; election involvement; and much more.

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## Member Profile –

Retha Nero, Retired

### SGMP Board

*Arlene Roberts*  
President

*Claire Smith*  
First Vice President

*Jennifer Coto*  
Second Vice President

*Suzy Keenan*  
Secretary

*Karen Lambert*  
Treasurer

*Directors:*  
*Chantale Acacia*  
*Michele Bemis, CMP*  
*Ellen Sliger*

Hometown: Born in St. Petersburg, Florida, moved to Tallahassee in 1980  
Education: B.S. Florida A & M University, Tallahassee; M.A. - University of South Florida, Tampa; Reading Certification - University of Miami, Coral Gables; Administration/Supervision – University of South Florida, Tampa  
Family/Pets: Husband – George, Sons – Gregory and George, Jr., Grandchildren – Gregory, II, Marcus, Shawntavia, Janay, D'Ontreye, Devon and Avalon  
Interests/Hobbies: Singing in the church choir, traveling, camping and providing consultant services to local school districts – Title 1/Migrant program.  
Position/Years at Job: Retired from the Department of Education (DOE) with a total of 44 years of service. Three years serving as a consultant to local school districts.  
Most Rewarding experience: Other than being a mother/grandmother – the year I spent as a teacher in the Overseas Dependent School System, Pusan, Korea is an experience I will always cherish. It was truly a beautiful cultural experience to teach a diverse group of second/third graders as well as teach English as a second language to Korean adults. During my year there, I was able to travel extensively throughout Asia.  
Why she belongs to SGMP: Belonging to SGMP, the Florida Capital Chapter, has provided me with a wealth of knowledge about meeting planning. Early in my career with DOE, I was asked to work with the Washington, D.C. Office of Migrant Education to plan a National Migrant/Health Education Conference in Hollywood, Florida, 1988. Little did I know that my involvement in helping to plan a meeting for over 1200 attendees would open the door for me to be invited to a meeting in Tallahassee comprising a group of suppliers, contract planners and meeting planners representing various agencies. At this meeting, the Florida Capital Chapter of SGMP was chartered. I am a 1989 charter member of the Florida Capital Chapter. has opened many doors and provided numerous opportunities for me to sharpen my planning strategies, increase my leadership skills and broaden my support system of suppliers, contract planners and meeting planners. Belonging to SGMP is a must for any person involved in meeting planning.

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# Committee / Member Reports

## New Members – Welcome to our newest members!

Katherine Byrd, Environmental Manager, FI Department of Environmental Protection  
Carolyn Hinson, Executive Assistant, Leon County Schools  
Laura Jersey, Assistant, Math Council DOE  
Janet Jones, Senior Convention Sales Representative, Kissimmee CVB

When recruiting new members, remember that a supplier needs to bring in a two-planner match.

**PLANNERS – PLEASE remember to include your Planner Profile along with your renewal application. National will not process your membership renewal without this form.**

**Government Planner Anniversary Fee Effective 12/1/06 – 5/1/07 - \$25.00**

## Nominations & Elections –

The SGMP Florida Capital Chapter in accordance with the National SGMP by-laws is gearing up to start its elections process. All Florida Capital Chapter members in good standing can be nominated for office and/or board of directors as outlined on the Call for Nominations form. Please submit all nominations to the Nomination and Elections Chair, P.O. Box 1563, Tallahassee, FL 32302 by February 20, 2007. Persons interested in being nominated for an office/board for the years 2007-2009 must be a member in good standing for at least one year. This information will be verified by the national membership office. The Election Policies & Procedures, Election time frames and Nomination form can be found on the Chapter's web site home page.

### Committee Chairs

Archives  
George Fong

Bylaws  
Arlene Roberts

Community Service  
Suzanne Kelly

Honors & Awards  
Sandy Stevens, CMP

Member Services  
Jennifer Coto

Membership Recruitment  
Jennifer Coto

Membership Retention  
Suzanne Kelly

National Conference  
Suzy Davis

Programs  
Tanya Robinson

Publications and  
Communications  
H A Scott

Special Events  
Ellen Sliger

## Food for Thought

Skinny Mini Cherry Cheesecakes  
8 average graham crackers,  
mashed into crumbs  
2 tbs. reduced calorie margarine,  
melted  
4 oz fat free cream cheese  
4 oz light cream cheese  
2 tbs fresh lemon juice  
2 large egg whites  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1/3 cup sugar  
20 oz light cherry fruit pie filling,  
warmed

Place 12 cupcake liners in a cupcake pan.  
Combine graham cracker crumbs and  
margarine and mix well.

Spoon 1 tablespoon of crumb mixture  
into the bottom of each liner and press  
down gently; Refrigerate until ready to  
fill.

Beat Cream cheeses until fluffy,  
add lemon juice, egg whites, vanilla  
extract and sugar and beat until  
smooth. Spoon cream cheese mixture  
evenly into crumb cups.

Bake at 375 for 15 minutes. Let cool.  
Top each cheesecake with 1 tablespoon  
cherry pie filling.



Chantale Acacia  
Sheraton Suites Orlando Airport

## SGMP Florida Capital Chapter

P. O. Box 1563  
Tallahassee  
Florida 32302

If you have an article  
you would like to  
submit, please  
contact either  
Arlene Roberts,  
President, or  
H A Scott, Publication  
Committee Chair,  
Florida Capital  
Chapter

According to Policy: The  
newsletter will be used to  
promote chapter matters  
only. The newsletter will not  
be used to promote a  
member's business or hotel  
site.



We are on the Web!

[www.sgmpfl.org](http://www.sgmpfl.org)

National's Web Site

[www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org)

## Membership Report

As Of Our 1/5/07 Report  
55.5% Planners  
44.5% Suppliers  
Govt. Planners – 57  
Contract Planners – 3  
Suppliers – 48  
Assoc Suppliers – 2  
Educator/Student - 2  
Retired – 7  
Total Members - 119

## Looking Ahead

National Conferences:

May 2-5, 2007  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

2008  
Dallas, Texas

2009  
Louisville, Kentucky

## February Membership Meeting

### “Three Blind Mice” - RFP

Tuesday, February 20  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Hampton Inn  
3388 Lombladh Road

Sponsored by  
Tampa Bay CVB

RSVP  
Lisa Chamberlain  
[lchamberlain@visittampabay.com](mailto:lchamberlain@visittampabay.com)



### Monthly Board Meetings

The Board meets the same day and place  
as the membership meeting beginning at  
4:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend,  
and minutes are available upon request.

### *About Our Organization...*

The SGMP Florida Capital Chapter chartered June, 1989 with 35 members. The chapter offers a variety of services to its members, including monthly educational programs, leadership opportunities, social activities and a strong code of ethics.

### *Mission Statement*

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals is a national organization dedicated to improving the knowledge and expertise of individuals in the planning and management of government meetings through education, training, and industry relationships.

## A Need to Know - A Need to Know – Upcoming Programs

February 20, 2007 – “Three Blind Mice” - RFP

March 20, 2007 – Supplier Appreciation Dinner

April 17, 2007 –

May 2007 – no meeting due to the National Conference

June 19, 2007 – Honors & Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers 2007-2009